

# Growing Fruit Trees in Containers Guide

*Provided by Mid City Nursery*

## ***CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONTAINER GROWN FRUIT TREES***

When growing fruit trees in containers, there is generally more care required than for the fruit for citrus. We recommend using the **Master Start** (5-20-10), or **EB Stone All Purpose** (5-5-5) once every 4 to 6 weeks during the growing season. Also, watering must be done more frequently. Generally, watering will need to be done 2 to 3 times a week during early to Mid Spring, while almost daily watering may be required during the hot summer months. Some factors to consider for the frequency of watering are the container size, the exposure to wind and sun, the type of soil you use, and the outside temperature. Generally, the larger the container, the less frequent you will have to water. Smaller containers generally dry out faster than larger containers. The more wind your plants are exposed to, the more water they will need. Wind can dry your containers out quickly, even if it isn't a particularly warm day. Also, depending on your soil mix you may need to adjust your watering. Soils that drain very quickly will need to be watered more often than soils that are heavy and retain water. In the end, you will have to be the judge of when and how much to water. For those who are new to container gardening, be observant and check your plants at least a couple of times a week. For those who want to container garden, but aren't sure they will remember to water, set up a drip irrigation system for your container plants and use a timer. That will alleviate some of the worries.



## ***FRUIT TREES THAT GROW WELL IN CONTAINERS***

Not all fruit trees will grow well in containers for long periods of time. If you want to grow a fruit tree in a container for just a couple of years, then you can grow just about any fruit tree. However, if you want to grow a fruit tree in a container for its entire life, then you may want to try some of the fruit trees listed below. The size of container plays a factor in what you can or can't grow. Generally, you will want to use a container that measures 18 - 24 inches wide and about the same depth. Larger containers can be used as well. Wine barrels cut in half are often used. It really doesn't matter the material of the container as long as there is adequate drainage. Some of the fruit trees that can be grown well in containers are dwarf meyer lemons, dwarf kumquats, dwarf eureka lemons (will require regular pruning), genetic dwarf nectarines, genetic dwarf peaches, and some of the dwarf apples (varieties on the Mark and M-27 rootstocks only grow 8-10 feet). Also, pineapple guavas, Chilean guavas, and strawberry guavas can be grown successfully in containers. Other dwarf citrus may do okay in large containers with regular pruning. For more information about what you can grow well in a container, please ask us.